

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 02743 011137Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 USIE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
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FOR ATHERTON DEL

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PEPR, IS, EG
SUBJECT: ISRAELI PRESS ARTICLE ON DAYAN-TUHAMI TALKS

FOR ATHERTON DEL

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. YOU SHOULD BE AWARE THAT FOLLOWING ARTICLE BY
BENZIMAN APPEARED ON FRONT PAGE OF MARCH 1 HAARETZ.

2. BEGIN TEXT: THE ISRAELI INTENTION TO RETAIN HER
SINAI SETTLEMENTS UNDER EGYPTIAN SOVEREIGNTY WAS CLARIFIED
TO CAIRO AT TWO SECRET MEETINGS WHICH MOSHE DAYAN HELD
WITH SADAT'S REPRESENTATIVES AT MOROCCO. EGYPTIAN DEPUTY
PRIME MINISTER HASSAN AL TUHAMI TOOK PART IN BOTH MEETINGS,
THOUGH OTHER EGYPTIAN REPRESENTATIVES ATTENDED THE SECOND.
THE OBJECT OF THE TALKS WAS TO CLARIFY TO EGYPT ISRAEL'S
INTENTIONS CONCERNING SINAI. THE TALKS WERE HELD AS PART
OF QUIET EFFORTS MADE BY THE BEGIN GOVERNMENT TO PROMPT
EGYPT TO OPEN NEGOTIATIONS WITH ISRAEL.

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3. DURING THESE TALKS DAYAN OUTLINED ISRAEL'S PRINCIPAL
IDEAS ON THE SETTLEMENT SHE IS PREPARED TO OFFER EGYPT
ON THE FUTURE OF THE SINAI PENINSULA. THE ISRAELI PROPOSAL
CONVEYED TO EGYPT DURING THESE MEETINGS WAS TO DIVIDE
SINAI INTO THREE AREAS: THE ONE WOULD ENABLE EGYPT TO KEEP
MILITARY FORCES THERE AT HER OWN DISCRETION; THE SECOND

WOULD BE A DEMILITARIZED AREA, WHILE THE THIRD WOULD BE A UN SUPERVISION AREA WHICH WOULD COMPRISE THE ISRAELI SINAI SETTLEMENTS WITH THE RIGHT TO DEFEND THEMSELVES.

4. THE EGYPTIAN REPRESENTATIVES COMMENTED THAT THEY WERE NOT ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THE PROPOSAL, BUT THAT IT WAS A BASIS FOR NEGOTIATIONS. THE PRINCIPLES PRESENTED TO SADAT'S REPRESENTATIVES AT THE SAID MEETINGS WERE, LATER ON, WORKED OUT INTO A DEFINITE PLAN, SUBMITTED TO AL TUHAMI AT A THIRD MEETING WHICH DAYAN HELD AT MOROCCO, AFTER THE SADAT VISIT TO JERUSALEM. THE DETAILED PROPOSAL WAS OFFICIALLY TRANSMITTED TO SADAT AT THE ISMAILIYA SUMMIT MEETING (IT HAD BEEN SUBMITTED TO CARTER WHO THEN TRANSMITTED IT TO SADAT).

5. THESE DEVELOPMENTS SHOW THAT THE RETENTION OF ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS IN SINAI PRINCIPLE WAS KNOWN TO SADAT BEFORE HIS VISIT AND THERE IS NO JUSTIFICATION FOR THE RECENT CLAIM THAT THE PEACE PLAN HAD TAKEN HIM BY SURPRISE BECAUSE IT INCLUDED THE ISRAELI RETENTION OF SETTLEMENTS ELEMENTS
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6. COMMENT: ISRAELIS ARE OBVIOUSLY TRYING TO USE THIS LEAK TO BUTTRESS THEIR POSITION THAT THEY HAVE PLAYED STRAIGHT WITH THE EGYPTIANS (AND U.S.) ALL
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ALONG ON THE FUTURE OF THE SINAI SETTLEMENTS.
LEWIS

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NNN

Message Attributes

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